ABSOLUTE MARTIAN MANHUNTER™

ALL IN

15+ TEEN+ 5

CAMP
RODRÍGUEZ

BATMAN: GOTHAM by GASLIGHT

A LEAGUE FOR JUSTICE

FROM THE SHADOWS OF THE GILDED AGE, A NEW TEAM RISES

THE ELSEWORLDS SAGA CONTINUES THIS JULY FROM WRITER ANDY DIGGLE AND ARTIST LEANDRO FERNÁNDEZ

Experience the epic prior volume in *Batman: Gotham by Gaslight - The Kryptonian Age*!

Collected Edition Available Now!

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CRK CRIK CRIK CRK CRK

CHOCOS

C'mere, YA LITTLE BITCH.

CLOWN

SHING

BARK BARK BARK BARK

WE ALL HAVE A DARK SIDE.

BENEATH CONSCIOUS THOUGHT.

Stupid. I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HER OUT, BUT I DID IT ANYWAY. Why'd I...?

HAD HER SINCE I WAS SEVEN. SHE WAS A GOOD DOG. A very good...

NO DOGS

*A CHARCOAL SKETCH OF OUR PERVERSIONS, URGES, SECRETS, **PAIN.***

WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO *CATCH* THIS *DOG-KILLING PSYCHO?!*

*OUR **SHADOW SELVES**...*

...THE ONES WE STUFF DOWN AND STEP ON AND IGNORE.

WELL, I GUESS THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH.

WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO THIS CITY? WE CAN'T EVEN KEEP OUR *DOGS* SAFE ANY-MORE.

*BECAUSE THE SHADOWS ARE **RISING UP.***

A COORDINATED ATTACK ON MIDDLETON POWER STATIONS HAS LEFT THE CITY IN TOTAL DARKNESS.

GREAT DARKNESS. COSMIC DARKNESS.

IT'S HARD TO SAY HOW LONG IT'S BEEN. THE SUN HAS YET TO RISE, BUT I FEEL CERTAIN THAT WEEKS HAVE PASSED.

OLD DARKNESS-- DARKNESS BEFORE TIME, BEFORE CREATION.

IT'S ONE OF THOSE NIGHTS THAT SEEM TO GO ON FOREVER.

SOON WILL SPREAD.

EVERYBODY KNOWS, **INSTINCTIVELY,** THAT MORNING WILL NEVER COME.

THE **FINAL** NIGHT.

MOST PEOPLE HIDE IN THE SAFETY OF THEIR LIGHTLESS LIVING ROOMS.

THEY LOOK OUT FROM BEHIND BLINDS AND JUMP AT SHADOWS.

WHO CAN BLAME THEM?

NO ONE. NO ONE.

CAN'T SEE $#!% OUT THERE. IT'S ALL JUST... DARKER AND DARKER SHADOWS.

GREAT DARKNESS IS SPIRITUAL DARKNESS, OBSCURES

OCCLUDES

DIMINISHES MARTIAN VISION. WE'RE DRIVING BLIND, PARTNER.

HAVE TO TRUST OUR OTHER SENSES.

THE STREETS ARE FAR FROM EMPTY, DESPITE THE HOUR.

LOOTINGS ARE COMMON IN BLACK-OUTS, BUT THESE ARE **DIFFERENT.**

TV SALES 32"

TWO-PERSON TEAMS OF **TEENS** AND THEIR **TWO-DIMENSIONAL DOUBLES** CARRY TVs, HAIR DRYERS, STEREOS, AND OTHER USELESS ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT THROUGH SMASHED SHOP WINDOWS.

THE SHADOWS ARE A **NEGATIVE INFLUENCE.**

WILD TEENS, ABANDONING EVERYTHING, ESTABLISH NEW--

--(or rediscover old)--

--ECSTATIC RELIGIONS.

PERFUMED WITH PATCHOULI AND NIGHT-BLOOMING JASMINE, THEY DANCE IN FRONT OF **GREAT FIRES** AND HOLD UP THEIR **USELESS LOOT.** EACH SHADOW CAST BECOMES A BRIEF OBJECT OF WORSHIP.

THEY GIVE THESE NEW GODS NEW NAMES AND NEW STORIES, PRAY AND SING IMPROVISED HYMNS, SPILL BLOOD IN THEIR DIVINE NEW NAMES...

...UNTIL THEY GET BORED AND THROW IT ALL IN THE FIRE-- OBJECT, SHADOW, GOD, AND NAME. AND START **AGAIN.**

OTHERS WORSHIP THE LIGHT.

WEE-OOO

WEE

THEY PURSUE IT VIOLENTLY. **WHY?** WHAT ARE THEY AFTER, EXACTLY?

DO THEY WANT TO **SAVE** IT, OR BE SAVED **BY** IT?

DO THEY WANT TO **DESTROY--**

WEE OOO

--OR **BE** DESTROYED?

DESPITE THE BLACKOUT, BRIDGET REFUSES TO SEE ME.

SHE WAS NEVER ESPECIALLY SCARED OF THE DARK.

BUT SHE **SHOULD** BE.

WE CAN'T SEE PEOPLE CLEARLY IN THIS KIND OF GLOOM. TO BE SURE OF ANYTHING, WE HAVE TO GET UP **CLOSE.**

I KNOW BRIDGET CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF. THAT'S--

--THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS I--

--ONE OF THE **AMAZING** THINGS SHE--

SHE COULD ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.

BUT I WAIT BY THE CAR WHILE THE MARTIAN MAKES SURE ANYWAY.

CERTAIN GROCERY STORES AND RESTAURANTS, PROMISING "OPEN ALL NIGHT," FIND THEMSELVES IN OVER THEIR HEADS.

CRIK CRK CRIK CRK CRIK CRK CRIK

THE NIGHT SHIFT REALLY GRINDS YOU DOWN.

IK CRIK

CRIK

FSSSSSS

LONG NIGHTS LIKE THIS CAN BE A KILLER.

ENJOY YOUR MEAL!

OPEN

STOP! DON'T TAKE A SINGLE BITE!

PUT DOWN THE HAMBURGERS AND NO ONE GETS HURT!

CAUGHT A WHIFF OF THE SECRET INGREDIENT AS I WALKED BY.

WE'VE GOT A RUNNER!

DUMB LUCK.

RAZOR-SHARP STARS OF RAGE TEAR UP THE INSIDE OF MY NOSE, BUT EVEN STILL I'M TEMPTED.

EXIT

THE BURGERS SMELL DELICIOUS.

I WALK THROUGH THE PARK LOOKING FOR TROUBLE BUT FIND MOSTLY LOVE AND FIREFLIES.
KIDS PLAY TAG WITH THEIR OWN SHADOWS.
I GUESS THEY'RE ON BETTER TERMS THAN WE ARE WITH OURS.
MAYBE OUR SHADOW IS JUST ANOTHER OLD FRIEND WE LOSE TOUCH WITH.
I REALIZE THAT, EVEN IN THE MOONLIGHT, I CAN'T TELL WHICH IS THE SHADOW AND WHICH IS THE REAL THING.

DAMN. SUDDENLY HAVE A CRAVING FOR CHOCOS.

ISN'T IT INCREDIBLE HOW GOOD THEY ARE AT ADVERTISING NOW, LIKE THEY'RE ALMOST IN YOUR HEAD?

NO WAY, TYLER. THOSE THINGS ARE TERRIBLE FOR YOU.

CHOCOS

PACHECO'S DISCOUNT

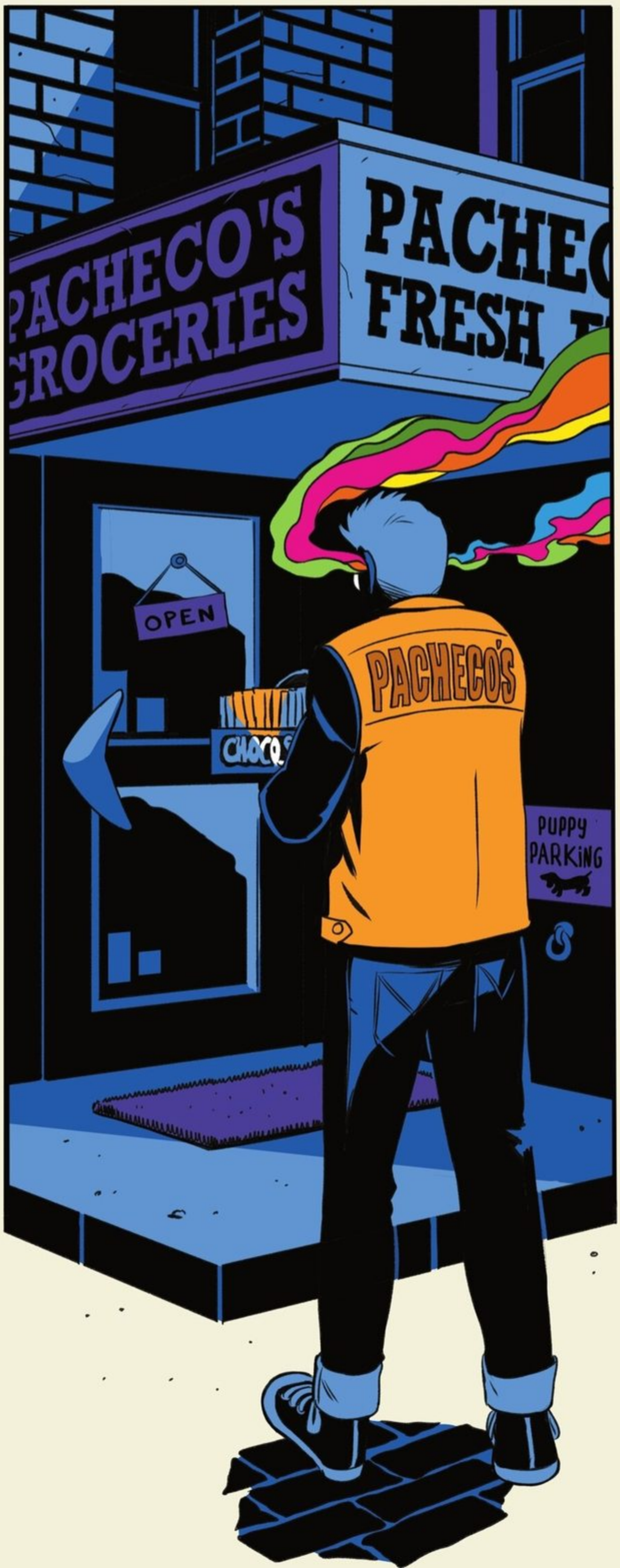
FRESH

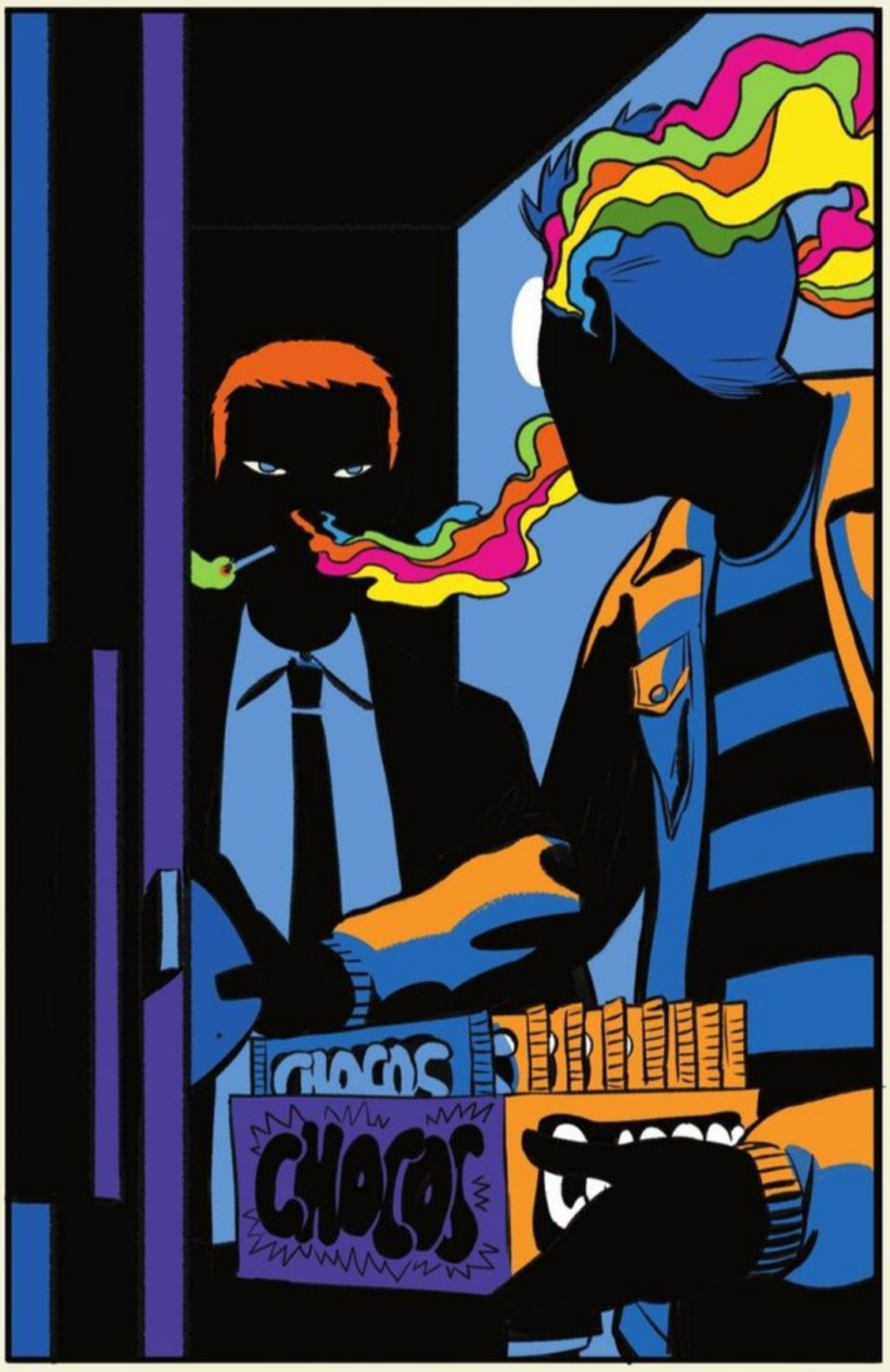
PACHECO'S

THEY'VE REALLY GOT IT DOWN TO A SCIENCE.

CHOCOS
CHOCOS

CHOCOS
CHOCOS


PACHECO'S
GROCERIES
PACHECO
FRESH
OPEN
PACHECO'S
PUPPY
PARKING


CHOCOS
CHOCOS

CHOCOS
CHOCOS
CHOCOS
CHOCOS

WE ALL HAVE A DARK SIDE.

P

PAUL WAS HERE

POW

SMACK

BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO GIVE IN TO IT.

PACHECOS FRESH FRUIT

C'mon, TYLER. STAY CLOSE.

"BEN...? WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND?"

BEN, S THAT A--

BLAM

WE ALL HAVE A CHOICE.

BLAM BLAM

Daddy?

BLAM

SQWAUK! Gimmeaki--

BLAM

DON'T WE?

BLAM

VERY SAD SWEET INVENTIVE STORY, PARTNER.

Damn. Too late.

TAP TAP

Too late for any of them.

WEEOOOOO
WEE

THEY GOT HERE FAST. I FIGURED--

WEE OOOOO

WE EOOOO

VROOOOOO

OOOOM

CRASH

SKREEECH

AND THEN I'M SWIMMING THROUGH A SEA OF DARKNESS. OR THE **MARTIAN** IS.

DINGY BASEMENT OF REALITY. COLD

OLD

ENDLESS.

IT'S GETTING HARD TO TELL THE **DIFFERENCE.**

ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS MY FAMILY. HAVE TO GET BACK TO MY--

MOUSE

--family. Have to get to get back--

DON'T WORRY. WE'LL GET YOU BACK TO YOUR FAMILY.

WE'LL FIX YOU *RIGHT UP.*

MIDDLETON AMBULANCE

BEFORE LIGHT, PRE-CREATION, IT WAS...

THE WHITE MARTIAN HAS TRAPPED IT ME US...

CLOWN

BLOOD RUNNING DOWN SOMETSO WARM LIKE GOWG BALL

...TRAPPED US ALL...

I'M THINKING...

...TOTAL AMPUTATION.

Amputation...? Amputate... *what* from *what*?

Well... WHATEVER FROM WHAT-EVER.

AFTER END, POST-EXISTENCE

WILL BE...

THE MARTIAN KEEPS SWIMMING, SEARCHING...

...SEARCHING FOR ITS CENTER...

...I THINK IT'S TRYING TO **UNDERSTAND.**

YOU'RE A ***MESS,*** MAN. THERE'S SO MUCH ***STUFF*** IN US. BUCKETS AND BUCKETS.

WHAT'S IT ALL ***FOR?***

A-are you a doctor?

HOW THE HELL SHOULD ***I*** KNOW?

OBSCENE DREAMER

CREATION'S "BURNING TIGER-FORCE"!

COSMIC "SECRET ORIGIN"!

THE NATURE OF THE DARKNESS...

KNOCK KNOCK

WHO WE ARE IN THE DARK, WHEN NO ONE'S WATCHING...

...THAT'S WHO WE REALLY ARE. THAT'S THE REAL US.

BATTERY POWERED. PRETTY COOL, *huh?*

So... ARE WE READY?

WRRR

BAD IDEA #0--

Dark-side is.

BEGINNING AND END EVERYTHING.

KNOCK KNOCK

THAT'S THE SPIRIT.

WRRRZZZ

DC WORLDS COLLIDE

SO NIGHTWING INVITED ME FOR SOME TEAM TIME, AND I DIDN'T KNOW IF IT WAS A DATE OR A STAKEOUT.

BECAUSE I'M SMART, BUT NOT ALWAYS **CLEVER.**

TURNS OUT HALF OF GOTHAM'S EX-CONS PLANNED A HEIST HERE AT THE MUSEUM.

AND NIGHTWING'S INFORMANT? THE ONE WHOSE TIP HE TRUSTED?

TURNS OUT **SHE** WANTS IT MOST OF **ALL.**

CATWOMAN. YOU KNOW WE CAN'T LET YOU TAKE THE BOX, RIGHT?

IT BELONGS TO THE ***MUSEUM.***

WELL, I'D SAY THAT'S DEBATABLE.

ONE ***MIGHT*** SAY THE MUSEUM ***STOLE*** IT, A BIGGER HEIST THAN ANY PETTY THIEVERY I'VE EVER DONE. ***ALLEGEDLY.***

DC WORLDS COLLIDE PRESENTS

UNDER A BATARANG MOON, Part Three

writer GAIL SIMONE art POP MHAN
colors HI-FI letters JOSH REED
editor MICHAEL McCALISTER

KINDA HARD TO ARGUE, REALLY.

IS THIS THE REAL, HONEST-TO-GOODNESS BOX PANDORA OPENED?

BECAUSE AS I RECALL, THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT TOO WELL FOR ***ANYONE.***

I THINK IT IS, BATGIRL.

AND YES, LAST TIME IT WAS OPENED, IT UNLEASHED A CURSE ON ALL HUMANKIND.

SO TELL ME, DO YOU ***REALLY*** WANT ONE OF ***THOSE*** KILLERS TO HAVE IT?

*WEIRD THING IS, I **BELIEVE** HER.*

WORLDS COLLIDE

OF COURSE, LIKE I SAID... SOMETIMES I'M MORE **SMART** THAN **CLEVER.**

CATWOMAN, WHAT THE **HELL...?**

GET **DOWN,** RED.

DID YOU FORGET ALL THE **GUNS** POINTED AT US?

GIVE ME THE **BOX.**

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

I THINK I'LL HANG ON TO IT FOR A BIT.

MY BAD.

HER **GOOD.**

BATGIRL. **RUN.**

WELL. THAT'S NOT GOOD.

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

RUN, RUN, BATGIRL.

DC WORLDS COLLIDE

GIMME THE **BOX,** KID.

AND GET **GONE,** OR GET **ATE. YOUR** CALL.

KILLER CROC! YIPES!

BATGIRL.

OVERHEAD PASS.

WHAT **CHOICE** DO I HAVE?

HEADS **UP.**

GOT IT!

NIGHTWING. YOU'RE **UP.**

GOT IT!

I THINK I LIKED THE NIGHT BETTER WHEN I WAS HAVING ITALIAN ON A ROOFTOP.

GOT MY .22 ON YOUR SKULL, BATGIRL. TURN AROUND **SLOW.**

TWO-FACE. **HARVEY.**

NOT IN FRONT OF THE PRICELESS ***HADROSAURUS*** SKELETON, OKAY?

YOU'RE RIGHT.

GOOD THING IT'S SUCH A SMALL ***CALIBER.***

THOSE OTHER GUYS, THEY SAID WE SHOULDN'T KILL YOU.

LET'S JUST FLIP A ***COIN.***

NEXT: OF MEN AND MYTH!

Jackson "Butch" Guice (1961-2025)

Butch was a great comics artist. His storytelling was wonderful. But he was also a great illustrator. Any one of his panels was a composed work of art, full of detail and character and gorgeous linework. His work was masterfully old-school, without ever being old-fashioned. As if that wasn't enough, he was simply one of the nicest people I've ever worked with. I miss him already.
—Dan Abnett

When you study Butch's storytelling, you see outstanding naturalistic realism; clean, genuine draftsmanship; and taut, cinematic storytelling that was almost terse, and definitely no-nonsense. It wasn't showy or stylized. It resisted all the flashy tropes and trends that date so much of '90s comics art in retrospect. It was staunchly professional, timeless, and always annoyingly great.
—Jon Bogdanove

I was always impressed with Jackson's draftsmanship...appreciating his clear reverence for the comic book artists we all loved—but the master comic *strip* artists we all *should* have loved, as well! My favorite work of Jackson's is *Resurrection Man*. Wish there was more favorite work coming, old chum.
—Mike Carlin

I was lucky enough to work with Butch Guice on *Resurrection Man* in 1997. It was our first ongoing DC series, and it wouldn't have been anywhere near as good without his stunning blend of realism and superhero dynamism, which gave the book its distinct voice.
—Andy Lanning

Butch and I were friends, colleagues, and studio mates, and he was a constant inspiration to me. Long before I knew him, I was following his work, which made it all the more amazing and precious whenever we would collaborate on something...and we did, numerous times...but we really should have been doing it for at least the next 30 years or so.
—Mike Perkins

For more quotes remembering Butch, please visit:
dc.com/remembering-butch-guice

GOTHAM CITY SIRENS

TAKE THE DC UNIVERSE BY STORM IN THESE NEW VARIANT COVERS!

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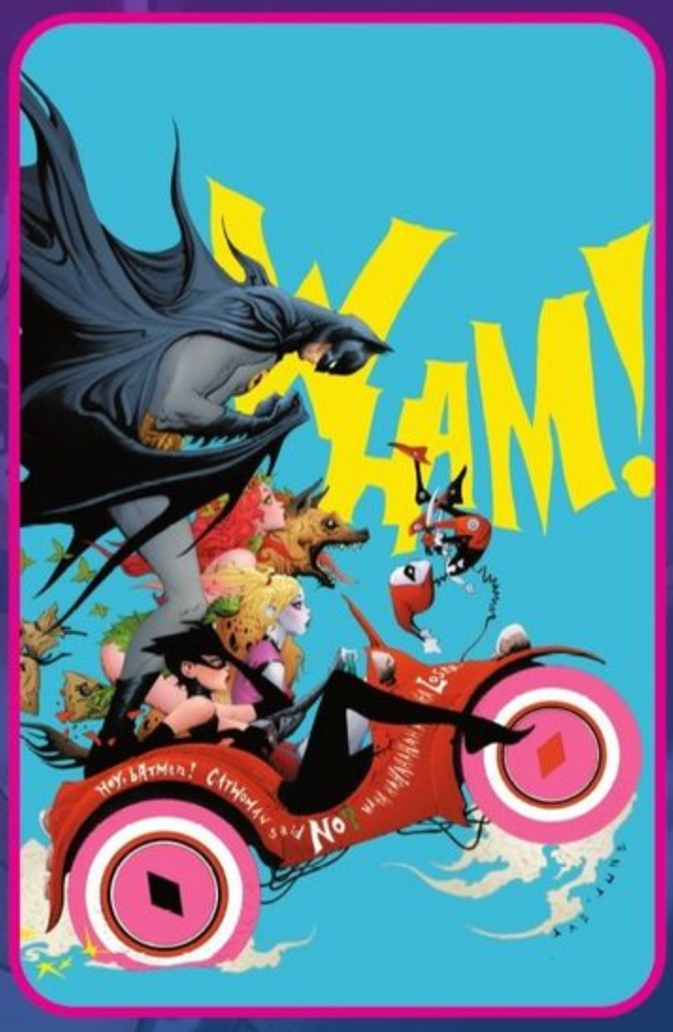
Variant cover by JAY ANACLETO and ROMULO FAJARDO JR.



DETECTIVE COMICS #1099
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Variant cover by DERRICK CHEW

ON SALE IN JULY

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DC STUDIOS

SUPERMAN

INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR JAMES GUNN

When was the first time you fell in love with Superman?

I've always liked Superman. As a kid, I was really attracted to the Superman Family comics with Superman, Supergirl, Krypto and the whole gang. I was a huge fan of the Richard Donner film as a child; everything about it just blew my mind. And I first saw it at a time when I was starting to become a little bit more aware of how important films were to me in my life.

Why was it important for Superman to be your first DC Studios film?

I felt like it was important to really put our best foot forward with DC Studios and, to me, that meant starting with *Superman*. Superman is the start of it all. He's the first superhero. There's the trinity—Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman—but we've seen a lot more of Wonder Woman and Batman over the past few years than we have of Superman, and he's an incredibly important character to DC.

Why is David Corenswet the perfect Superman and Clark Kent?

I think that anybody who sees the movie will know why David Corenswet is Superman—because he just is. I was initially afraid about finding the right Superman. Luckily, I saw David's self-tape on the first day of auditioning actors, and I was like, 'Holy God, that's amazing.' You see him in the movie, and you realize this guy's just a fantastic actor. He also just happens to look and act and sound a lot like Superman. I think that David is iconic as Superman.

How does Rachel Brosnahan bring Lois Lane to life?

I remember at one time, Rachel turned to me and said, 'I'm scared of playing this character.' And I was like, 'Why?' And she said, 'Because I've never played someone who is so close to me.' And I think that's true. Rachel is a dynamo, and the character is a dynamo. She's incredibly energetic and funny and quick-witted and powerful. Rachel really is a lot like Lois. She's a complete force to be reckoned with.

What stories from the comics inspired your take on Superman?

I'm very inspired by the comics. Grant Morrison's *All-Star Superman* was incredibly influential to me and really was the way in which I fell in love with the character. Grant gave Superman something that I just loved and it was a big inspiration. Frank Quitely also gave him an appeal that I loved, which became part of the foundation of Superman in this movie.

In DC Comics, you have slightly different interpretations of these characters, whether it's *The Dark Knight* or *The Long Halloween*, the new Absolute run of comics. With our projects, we are taking these iconic characters and changing them slightly, and taking characters that are lesser-known and less iconic and putting them in important roles, like we've done with Peacemaker, for instance. So, I'm just doing what comics have always done.

DC STUDIOS

SUPERMAN

IN THEATERS JULY 11!

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